



**Kurt E. Floren**  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Director of Weights and Measures

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

### Department of Agricultural Commissioner/ Weights and Measures


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**Richard K. Iizuka**  
Chief Deputy

DATE: January 31, 2008

TO: The Honorable Michael D. Antonovich  
Supervisor, Fifth District

FROM: Kurt E. Floren   
Agricultural Commissioner/  
Director of Weights and Measures

SUBJECT: NATIONAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK, MARCH 1-7, 2008

Across the United States, states and local jurisdictions are observing National Weights and Measures Week, March 1-7. On March 2, 1799, the Congress of the United States passed our nation's first weights and measures law, which pertained to testing the accuracy and corrections of standards being used to determine the duties to be applied to imports. The date marks the recognition by the new Congress in the importance that uniform standards of measurement play in the commerce of the country.

The theme for this year is **"Weights and Measures: Balancing the Marketplace."** The Department is recognized for its role as a consumer protection agency. However, when the Los Angeles County Department of Weights and Measures was established in 1915, its primary mission was to ensure that a balanced playing field existed among competing businesses. Over the years, the Department has worked to maintain that balance by routinely inspecting and testing all commercially used meters and scales located in the County. As the nature of commerce has evolved and packaged commodities have become prevalent, the Department has endeavored to make certain that labeled quantity statements accurately reflect the amount of product within each package. Similarly, the wide use of scanners at retail store checkstands, the introduction of wireless transmission of utility meter readings, and other technological advances have required many amendments to our duties. Our role has expanded over the years to meet such changes in commercial transactions, all with a deep commitment to maintaining equity in the marketplace.

I would appreciate your introducing the attached resolution at the February 26, Board Meeting. It is most appropriate that you present this resolution because of your continued support for the weights and measures program.

KEF:RKI:JNH:jh

Attachment

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, 209 years ago, on March 2, 1799, the Congress of the United States enacted the nation's first weights and measures law, citing the necessity of standards of weights and measures, the need for weights and measures as a public service, the need to examine and try all weighing and measuring devices, and the need for uniformity; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Los Angeles has recognized this need in establishing the Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures, which has consistently functioned in the public good; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures has continued to perform its duties of inspecting all weighing and measuring devices within the limits of this jurisdiction to ensure equity in commercial transactions for the protection of all citizens of our County, whether they be the buyer or the seller; and,

WHEREAS, Weights and Measures laws promote and require the accurate labeling and advertisement of product identities, quantity, and prices, which facilitates value comparisons essential to a successful free enterprise market, delivers the best products for the best price, and enables manufacturers and merchants to compete fairly; and,

WHEREAS, March 1 through March 7, 2008 will be observed as Weights and Measures Week throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, the theme, **"Weights and Measures: Balancing the Marketplace"** has important significance as weights and measures jurisdictions nationwide meet this year to deliberate, among many issues, the adoption of automatic temperature compensation in retail fuel sales.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, in special recognition of the work performed by the County Sealer and his staff, does hereby proclaim that the week of March 1 through March 7 be known as "Weights and Measures Week" in our County, and urges everyone to recognize the very valuable contribution to the economic welfare of the communities of this County being made by the Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures.

The foregoing resolution was on  
the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2007,  
adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County  
of Los Angeles and ex officio the governing body  
of all other special assessment and taxing districts,  
agencies and authorities for which said Board so acts.

SACHI A. Hamai, Executive Officer-  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of  
the County of Los Angeles

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
BY COUNTY COUNSEL

RAYMOND G. FORTNER, JR.

By Mayaher  
Deputy